

St. John Lutheran Church
1710 5th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

‘THE HERALD’
April 2016
Published 12 times/year
Vol. #116, Issue #4

St. John Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 9 am-4:30 pm
Friday: 9 am-2 pm

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit #1040
Fargo, ND 58102



St. John Lutheran Church

Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

THE HERALD

Volume 116, Issue 4

Community in Christ: Christ in Community

April 2016



**St. John Drama
Presents:**

The Bishop's Candlesticks

By Norman Mckinnel

During Worship April 20th and
April 24th

Contact Us

St. John Lutheran Church
1710 5th St. S., Fargo, ND 58103

701-232-8521 e-mail: office@stjohnfargo.com;
www.stjohnfargo.com

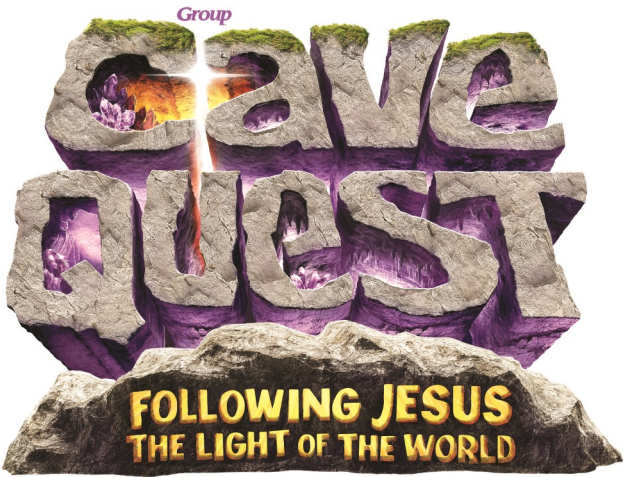
The Ministry Team of St. John: All the People of God, along with
Rev. Nathan Keith, Rev. Brian Hansen, Pastors
Dawn Papenfuss, Director of Music/Organist
Rachel Coen-Tuff, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
Jackie Jabens, Finance/Office Manager
Carly Rogne, Secretary Randy Shone, Custodian
Jana Bruhschwein, Preschool Director
Kellie Knodel, Cheryl Dietz, Katie Olson, Preschool Teachers
Peggy Hammerling, Recorders Jessica Westgard, Handbells
Editor: Carly Rogne, Articles accepted before
1 pm Friday, April 15th for the May 16' Herald.

Thank you to all who participated and
donated to The Youth Silent Auction and
Talent Show. The funds raised at this
event help support youth and family
activities for the year such as confirmation
service projects, mission trips,
milestones, Cross+Walk, Vacation Bible
School and much more. We appreciate all
of the prayers and support from our
community of faith!

Vacation Bible School 2016!

June 12-15 5:30-7:45pm

Are you ready for a fun summer adventure at St.
John? Vacation Bible School is just around the
corner! God's light is always shining in the dark-
ness, even if at times it's hard to see the light.
Come along to VBS this summer with a friend,
and learn about God's light and love and how it
fills our life as followers of God!



Any St. John member who is accepted at an ELCA college or seminary may apply to the St. John Foundation and
receive this scholarship. The foundation board manages the fund and will make disbursements. Application
forms are available in the church office and *must be submitted to the church office (232-8521) by Monday, June 6,
2016. NOTE: Students need to apply every year for this scholarship!*

NEW MEMBER GATHERINGS are scheduled for *April 10th and 17th beginning at 9:35 am* in the
Preschool room. If you, or someone you know are interested in joining St. John, call the church office,
232-8521 or email office@stjohnfargo.com

A Note From the Pastor,

I pray that you have been stretched and challenged as we focused on our Lenten Theme, “Don’t Miss the Boat”. We talked about community with the cruise liner, the gift of producing and enjoying creation with the speed boat, moving around the world under our own power in the canoe, God’s Spirit moving the sail boat, and that each boat at some point will experience rough waters, which helped us see the need for a life raft.

The wonderful thing about the Lenten journey is reframing our egos to see that we can’t “do life” by ourselves. We need the great community around us to navigate great seas. Together we were able to see that despite the diversity of the different ships, God was in each of them.

On Easter we witnessed together that death and stone was not enough to keep life and God from exploding forth. The beauty of Easter is God walking amongst us. God is walking down the aisle at your wedding, God is walking with you as you open the door at work, God is walking with you as you sit in class and wonder if she likes you. God walks where we walk. God has pushed the stone away and the stench of death is no more. Since God is among us we have hope; hope that we are not left as orphans, hope that our lives have been caught by the gracious arms of God.

One beautiful by-product of living out “Christ in our community” is the contagion factor. People who live with a Christ-centered expression naturally draw others to God’s love. Many of you at St. John have become that contagion factor in this community, but we need to continue to find new ways of reaching into people’s lives. The ways you live out faith in our community is bringing the reality of the resurrection to the world. You are inspiring others to give. Your offerings and gifts towards our capital campaign are unleashing the Spirit of God in incredible ways. Your hands in service to those who have no home and to those who need your care during illness or death increase compassion.

You are making faith alive. As God walked out of the tomb you also have walked. You have walked into your homes, workplaces, and schools with the grace that was freed through the resurrection.

May God remove any stones in your life that are holding you back from being the best you. May the resurrection bring you hope, focus, and also vibrancy as you take new steps.

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan Keith

ST. JOHN FOUNDATION REPORT

At the March 1st meeting of the board, the St. John Foundation approved funding as follows, due to your generous support!

- \$1,000 to the Good Samaritan Fund for emergency assistance at St. John
- \$500 to Ryan Hawley for supplies needed to complete his Eagle Scout project, painting the trim in the St. John sanctuary and parlor
- \$1,500 to ELCA World Hunger
- \$1,000 to Jail Chaplains’ Project Home, a local faith-based housing program for men entering the community after incarceration

If you have a project or a special need, please consider making a funding request. Funding request forms are available at the church office or by email (jjabens@stjohnfargo.com or office@stjohnfargo.com). The foundation board’s next meeting is scheduled in June 2016.

FINANCIAL UPDATE - General Fund	
\$4,327	Wednesday 03/16 thru Sunday 03/20 Offering Plate
<u>\$1,562</u>	Electronic Giving 03/18 thru 03/23
\$5,889	Total Offering
\$10,768	Weekly amt needed for \$563,023 annual budget
\$109,734	Income thru 03/23/16
\$117,478	Expense thru 03/23/16
\$127,680	Budget thru 03/23/16

Look what’s happening with small groups at St. John this month!

YAH (Young at Heart) For those of a ‘certain age’, join us for Christian fellowship, coffee & refreshments. Cathy Chatelain, 261-2707 **Next Meeting: April 14, 10:00 am**

Deuteronomy28Men Men’s Ministry Meet at St. John before going to work, 6:45-7:30 am. Coffee is on at 6:30 am. **Next meeting: Thursday, April 28** Contact: Keith Burck, kburck@alerusmail.com or 232-3800.

Ruth Circle Meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 pm from September-May, and is hosted by a circle member in her home or in the church parlor. **Next Meeting April 18 Location TBA**

Rachel Circle Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30am in the conference room at St. John. **Next Meeting April 20**

Bible Study with Pastor Brian Pastor Brian Hansen will lead a bible study every Wednesday at 11:00am in the St. John Parlor. All Are Welcome!

MUGG: (Men Under God’s Guidance) 2nd Monday of the month, 5:30 p.m. at the Loft at Ushers (Moorhead) For all men, we will gather after work for food and fellowship. **Next meeting: April 11**

Reconciling In Christ: This is a group working toward St. John being more welcoming of the LGBT community and becoming a Reconciled in Christ congregation. Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at St. John. **Next meeting: April 12** Contact: Stephanie Christeson 701-478-4145

Women & Wine Fellowship Women of St. John are invited for fun and good conversation; in the evening hours. **Next meeting TBA** Contact: Diane Wiesenborn, 701-866-5623

Foot Care Clinic Our Foot Care Clinic provides fellowship and foot care performed by volunteers and trained health personnel. Call Cathy Chatelain at 261-2707 to schedule an appointment. Cost is \$16 paid to Sanford Home Health Care-Fargo. Donations appreciated and go to support this ministry. **Next clinics: Tue. April 19**

Yoga Mondays at 10 am in the Parlor. Free yoga class to stretch your mind, body and spirit. Yoga literally translated means to join, attach, or unite. The intention of Christian based Yoga is to integrate and balance all the layers of our life so that our body, mind, heart, intellect and spirit flow in harmony. Yoga strengthens, tones, increases flexibility, reduces the likelihood of injury and helps ease the symptoms of stress. Join us! Wear comfortable clothes. (Any money given at the end of the year will go to the Lutheran Global Health). Contact: Gini Duval, 701-306-3454, **Schedule: Apr. 4,11,18,25. May 2,9.**



Memorials & Honorariums:

General Memorial Fund:

In Memory of Mary Ann Huebener:

Marlene Ames, Calvin & Nola Engelstad, Mark Engelstad, Judy & Fred Haugo, Steve & Judith Paulson

In Memory of Harold Olsen:

Judy & Fred Haugo, Joyce Meyer

Good Samaritan Committee Fund:

In Memory of Mary Ann Huebener:

Jeri Ekstrom, Lyle & Rosalie Fritz, Jane Nissen, Dick & Diane Stenberg, Mary Ann Walen

In Memory of Harold Olsen:

Wes Myhre

Special Music Fund:

In Memory of Mary Ann Huebener:

Dick & Shirley Bolme

Stephen Ministry Fund:

In Memory of Harold Olsen:

Virginia & David Duval

Youth Fund:

In Honor of JoAnn Alger:

Fred & Judy Haugo

Music Notes by Dawn Papenfuss

April 3 8:30 & 10:45


April 10 Trax of Faith

April 17 8:30 & 10:45

April 20 Last day of Children’s Choir

April 24 Adult Drama

Thank you so much to all the lovely musicians who have helped us out throughout the Lenten Services and Easter holidays!



Living Life Without Limits

YAH Young at Heart is excited to host *Judy Siegle* as their program for their May luncheon to be held in Fellowship Hall at 11:30am on Thursday May 12. **ALL ARE INVITED** to hear this inspirational speaker. Judy, at age 18, experienced a car accident which left her a quadriplegic and changed her life forever, but she didn’t let that stop her. She learned how to live without limits! Questions? *Call Cathy Chatelain 261-2707, Mavis Lura 238-4147, or Gini Duval 306-3454.*

God's By Grace

This is the second in a series of writings from the members of the Reconciling in Christ team, explaining why or how they feel called to this ministry.

The first boy I ever loved was gay. No broken hearts or crushed dreams are part of this story, though. The first boy I ever loved lived across the street from me. He was two years older than me. He was kind. He was gentle. He took care of me from the time we were barely in school, finding me a seat on the bus, making sure I didn't get lost. What wasn't there to love? You could say I was young and naive, but rather I believe I was wise. I saw my friend for who he truly was, how he was created to be. I saw his spirit. We were in high school before I heard the rumors. By then we were no longer inseparable, but he still had the same spirit and still held a special place in my heart. I saw his kindness to others at school, saw him treat classmates with respect and dignity. Even those who outed him.

I feel privileged to be on the RIC ministry team at St. John. I feel proud to be part of a faith community courageous enough to have difficult conversations. I can't say I've ever had a difficult time reconciling my faith with my feelings about people who happen to be LGBTQ. I think what my experience with my first love taught me is that we *should* love one another. We are called to follow Jesus' example to love one another. Without questions, without qualifications.

Yours in Christ,

Stephanie Christeson

ELCA WORLD HUNGER EMPHASIS

Many of you know from previous years that we do this in the spring. This year it will be the Sunday’s of April 10, 17, and 24. ELCA World Hunger offering envelopes will be available April 17th and our offering in-gathering will be April 24th. To help us learn of the great needs throughout the world (and here in the United States) we will have two adult Forums. On April 10 Elwood Rieke will give an overview including why so many people remain in poverty, the affects of malnutrition, and the lack of infrastructure in many countries. Then, on April 17th, Char Grant will treat us to a fun and creative game (which she developed) entitled “The World Hunger Challenge”. This game is something you will not want to miss!

Elwood Rieke

Church Tour and Luncheon

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED are having their annual Church Tour and Salad Luncheon Friday, April 1 at 11:00am. We will become acquainted with “Recovery Worship” where you “come as you are” . It is at 3910 25th St. S. Fargo, and sponsored by the 1st United Methodist Church. The charge is \$5.00 which will be used to support local agencies.

Everyone Welcome!

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Rachel Coen-Tuff, Director of Youth and Family Ministry 701-232-8521, Rachel@stjohnfargo.com

Families today are busy. We are busy with work, school, sports, music, and church. The weather is getting nicer and the end of school year is on the horizon. So how do we keep our families engaged in the faith life when the sun is out and the homework is done?

Pray outside. Spring is right around the corner and we all know how we love to be outside. Play a game with your family outside and every time it is your child’s turn have them share one good or bad thing that has happened in their day and pray for someone in their school, activities or family.

Attend a sporting event our outdoor activity with your faith community. Wither it’s the park or the pool engaging with other families in our faith community in a routine basis helps children and parents feel connected to church even though they may not make it to worship they are still having fun and learning with people they recognize from church.

Participate in a day of service. There are great organizations in the Fargo-Moorhead area who are always looking for volunteers but especially in the summer when the weather is nicer. Pick a place in town and an after-noon or evening where you could spend time at a local community place serving as a family and serving God!

Spring and Summer and the weather that comes with them are gifts of God’s creation. Celebrating these gifts and finding what works best for your family doesn’t always include spending time inside. What matters is the time spent together, enjoying God’s creation and still remembering God is apart if it all!

Rachel Coen-Tuff

Milestone Ministries

Ten Commandments (4th Grade)

(Please put what was in a previous newsletter article but include these dates:

April 3rd & 10th- Milestone Sessions

April 17th Presentation in Worship at 10:45

Lord’s Prayer Milestone (2nd Grade)

Family Sessions: April 10th & 17th

Presentation in Worship: April 24th

Senior Recognition Sunday!

May 15th

Vacation Bible School 2016 Registration Form (June 12-15 5:30-7:45pm)

Child’s Name _____ Gender _____

Child’s Age _____ Date of Birth _____ Last Grade Completed _____

Name of Parents _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ Parent Cell # _____

E-mail Address _____ Home Church _____

Any specific accommodations your child may need _____

Allergies or medical conditions _____

In case of emergency contact _____ Phone # _____

Relation ship to Child _____ Suggested Fee: \$20/child or \$50/family

